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L4: Entry 4 of 11

File: USPT

Feb 29, 2000

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6032147 A

TITLE: Method and apparatus for rationalizing different data formats in a data management system

Brief Summary Text (17):

In another aspect of the invention, there is provided a transaction engine for receiving data records in different formats from a plurality of input record generating devices. The transaction comprises at least one input interface for receiving incoming data records, the input interface supporting a predetermined input format; a conversion device for receiving input records from the input interface and converting the records into a predetermined universal format; and at least one output interface for receiving a record(s) in the universal format and forwarding it in a predetermined output format(s). The conversion device preferably operates in real-time and preferably includes a first storage device for temporary storage of records during conversion and a library of conversion rules for converting data records from one or more input formats into the universal format and from the universal format into one or more output formats.